



EAST COUNTY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD (ECCAB)

Meeting Summary September 3, 2014

Members Present: Fisseha Adugna, Erik Amick, Samantha Blizzard, Roy Chavera, Melissa Daley, Marya Ford, Alison Praisner-Klumpp, Allan Mulligan, Len Newman, Jeremiah Pope, Anthony Ramirez, Jerold Samet, Jason Washington, Fatmata Barrie.

Guests Present: Mara Parker, Tami Bulla, Harriett Quinn, Stephan Poore, Mensah Adjogah, Mark Moore, Mark Pharaoh, Amelia Holgash, Brigit Smith, Karlyn Walker, George Giebel, Eleanor Shephard, Ruthan Eiser, Ed Weiler, Dan Wilhelm.

Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Marya Ford. She welcomed ECCAB members, the guest speakers and residents.

Citizen's Forum

- Ed Weiler from the Broadmore Hills community expressed his concerns about the HOC/Section 8 related problems in the area as a direct result of the elimination of the police officer position.
- Sheila Sheppard expressed concerns about the traffic safety (entry/exit at the roundabout) along Blackburn Road close to a child care center.

Dialogue/Presentation by Special Guests:

- Montgomery County Executive, Isiah Leggett dialogued with the Board and residents in attendance and covered a number of topics of interest to the East County community and County at large:
- His self perceived grade on (his) overall efforts/accomplishments in East County.
- Education system challenges the County faces and the need to keep up with progress in light of growth in the student population and state maintenance of effort mandate.
- Sending a letter to the Washington Post in support of former Council member Marilyn Praisner's efforts and commitments to East County during her time as a rebuttal to what was reflected in the article.
- Gave a short presentation on the "Transfer of Development Rights," a historic context/perspective in understanding development/lack of development in East County.
- Growth in Capital Improvement Programs and competing challenges

- Announced the new partnership with EDENS for a mixed use development project in Burtonsville as inducement for greater redevelopment of the old vacant shopping center.
- Maintains a strong commitment and support for the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan, and commitment to continue working on viable transportation solutions, the Bus Rapid Transit system to promote growth.
- He answered a few questions related to traffic related issues in East County, education, tri-county coordination in development and transportation related issues, size of the county police force, request for public input in the general development agreement process for the life science village development, street panhandling, and increasing library hours.
- Scott Gutschick, Planning Section Manager, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services led the board and residents in a discussion to solicit input for the County's Fire Rescue Master Plan for a five year period, 2015-2020. Potential topics of interest covered included:
- Response services-emergency medical services, special operations, desired services for East County.
- Standard and Response Coverage-apparatus and staffing standards/requirements and needs
- Location of new/additional fire stations in East County-Hillandale, Tech Road, proposed Life Science Village.
- Outreach to/education for special cultural population groups.
- Use of technology, including social media.
- CPR and other training needs of residents.
- Pedestrian safety.

Approval of Meeting Summary

- The summary of September 3, 2014 meeting was approved as presented.

Director's Report

- A written report was submitted, including brief statements on: Spectrum Partnership development proposal at Tech Road and US 29, WOSGMP related timelines/updates and the Metrobus Z Line public meeting at the ECRSC on September 10th.

Chair's Report

- An updated list of East County Civic and Home Owners Associations has been created and each ECCAB member is encouraged to select one or two to participate in meetings and other community activities.
- ECCAB Tour of East County-members were asked to sign up for either October 25nd or November 1st as soon as possible.

Committee Reports

- Quality of Life/Services Committee will focus on the following areas in the coming months- gang related issues/public safety, graffiti, panhandling, education, employment, human services delivery.
- Planning and Economic Development Committee will focus on- Burtonsville revitalization, WOSGMP-Planning/Development related/community engagement, BRT, Washington Adventist Hospital.

Council Staff Update

- Mara Parker (Councilmember Marc Elrich's Office) provided timelines/update for Council action- legislation on public finance for county council and county executive, use of drones, band the box (criminal record), school bus safety cameras, child care space in public buildings, appointment of a new planning board commissioner, deer management briefing, pedestrian safety program review.

Old Business (None)

New Business

- Marcus Jones, Commander, Montgomery County Police, 3rd District introduced himself and provided a brief overview of the police force, officer count/recruitment efforts and training schedule. He updated the board on a few changes-Lt. James Brown has been moved to the 5th District, and Lt. John Fitzgerald has been assigned to the 3rd District.
- EDENs was selected to partner with the County for the development of the parcel of land behind the Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center. Negotiations between the County and EDENs has just started.

Announcements

- Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department open house on Saturday, October 4th
- EBOLA fundraising concert at the Fillmore on October 3rd.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.